

# Hanford announces annual patriotic essay contest for students

The Department of Energy Veterans Advisory Committee and the Hanford Safeguards and Security organizations are teaming once again with the Hanford Community Diversity Council, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and the VFW ladies auxiliaries to establish a Hanford category in the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay contests specifically for children and other relatives of Hanford employees.

Students can win prizes (for example, Savings Bonds, gift certificates, movie passes and medals) in the Hanford category, as well as prizes in the local, district, state and national categories of the VFW contest.

The Voice of Democracy is an annual national audio essay contest for high school students, grades nine through 12. The theme is "My Commitment to America's Future." All essays must be delivered as three-to-five-minute oral presentations, recorded on good-quality cassettes. A written script of the essay is also required. Contestants may not identify themselves, their schools, their cities or states in their essays. The top prize at the national level is a \$25,000 scholarship.

In the past two years, one winner in the Hanford-sponsored Voice of Democracy contest advanced to the district competition and one winner advanced to the national competition.

The Patriot's Pen is a youth essay contest for students in the seventh and eighth grades. The theme is "My Dream for America." All entries should be typewritten in English and must be 300 to 400 words in length. Contestants may not identify themselves, their schools, their cities or states in their essays. The top prize at the national level is a \$10,000 Savings Bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The entry forms and specific details are available on the VFW Web site at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) under "Community Support," or you can contact Jim Spracklen or Guy Schein. The Hanford contest deadline for entries for both the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen is October 30. Mail in or drop off entries in the Federal Building to Spracklen in room 703 (A7-50) or Schein in room 760 (A7-75).

All students in seventh through 12th grades are urged to participate in this contest. The competition offers an opportunity for students to demonstrate leadership, citizenship and patriotism. ■